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RAINFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL
REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year
1956



F. W. BUNTING, M.B.E., M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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RAINFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1956

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL; G. THOMPSON, ESQ., J.P.

VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL: J.R. AUSTIN, ESQ., J.P.

CHAIRMAN OF TOWN PLANNING AND HEALTH COMMITTEE
MR. J. MOLYNEUX

VICE-CHAIRMAN
MR. J. SMITH
-

CHAIRMAN OF HOUSING COMMITTEE
MR. E. WAINWRIGHT

VICE-CHAIRMAN
MRS. S. HEYES
-

MEMBERS

Mr. S. Leighton
Mr. J.R. Rosbotham
Mr. R.L. Alcock
Mr. S. Lewis
Mr. J. Eden, M.B.E., J.P.
Mr. R. Rose
Mr. R. Webster
Mr. W. Darlington
Mr. H. Webster

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL: G. WALKER, ESQ.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
F.W. BUNTING, M.B.E., M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
R.C. HAYCOCK, A.R.S.I., A.M.Inst.H.E.
-

Clerk
Miss N. Johnson

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Council Offices,

RAINFORD.

June, 1957.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE RAINFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL:

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you the 26th Annual Report on the health of Rainford for the year ending 31st December, 1956.

I am again glad to report that the health of the community has remained satisfactory during the year.

The adjusted death rate of 13.6 compares favourably with previous years and showed a reduction compared with 1955 which was 13.7.

The birth rate has shown an increase being 18.5 compared with 15.2 for the year 1955.

The death rate amongst children under the age of one year (infant mortality) has shown an increase being 24 per 1,000 live births compared with 15 per 1,000 live births during 1955. The average over the past five years was 26.8 per 1,000 live births. Two infants died during the year.

There has been a further marked decrease in the number of infectious diseases. 34 cases were notified during the year 1956 compared with 63 during 1955.

I am again happy to report that no cases of diphtheria or poliomyelitis have been notified and am also happy to report that for the ninth successive year there no maternal deaths.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

F.W. BUNTING

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

STATISTICS

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,877
Registrar General's estimate of population mid-1956	..	...	...	...	...	...	4,350
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1956) according to Rate Book	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,440
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£36,670
Product of a Penny Rate	.	...	...	...	...	...	£152.15.10

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

Deaths
All Causes

Stillbirths

Maternal
Mortality

	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1000 total births
Year 1956	83	18.5	50	13.6	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" 1955	66	15.2	53	13.7	2	29	-	-
" 1954	85	19.7	56	14.6	2	23	-	-
" 1953	84	19.3	48	12.3	2	23	-	-
" 1952	63	15.2	35	11.3	3	45	-	-
" 1951	85	21.1	53	13.1	2	23	-	-
Average 5 years 1951 - 1955		18.1	-	13.0	-	28.6	-	-

INFANT MORTALITY

Total			Neo-Natal	
No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 live births		No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 live births
Year 1956	2	24	1	12
" 1955	1	15	-	-
" 1954	3	35	2	24
" 1953	2	24	2	24
" 1952	3	48	1	16
" 1951	1	12	1	12
Average 5 years 1951 - 1955		26.8	-	13.2

Adjusted live birth rate(comparability factor 0.97) - 18.5 per 1000.

Adjusted death rate(comparability factor 1.18) - 13.6 per 1000.

DETAILS OF VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	Total	M	F
Legitimate	83	43	40
Illegitimate	-	-	-
TOTAL	83	43	40
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population mid-1956 - 18.5			
Deaths	Total	M	F
TOTAL	50	30	20

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population mid-1956 - 13.6

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion - Nil.
Mortality rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - Nil.

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

All infants per 1,000 live births - 24

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births - 24

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births - Nil

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age - 1

Mortality rate per 1,000 live births - 12

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1956 FOR ENGLAND AND
WALES

Birth and death-rates, together with case rates for certain infectious diseases, for England and Wales in the year 1956

Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns

Estimated home population mid-1956 - 44,667,000

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 home population</u>
Births		
Live births	699,059	15.7
Stillbirths	16,431	(0.37
		(23.0 (a)
Deaths		
All causes	521,402	11.7
Tuberculosis (all forms)	5,373	0.12
Respiratory	4,851	0.11
Non-respiratory	522	0.01
Cancer (all forms)	92,701	2.08
Lung and bronchus	18,185	0.41
Other cancer	74,516	1.67
Maternal mortality (total)	401	0.56 (a)
Maternal causes (excluding abortion)	330	0.46 (a)
Due to abortion	71	0.10 (a)
Infant mortality	16,471	23.8 (b)
Neo-natal mortality	11,780	16.9 (b)
<u>Notifications (corrected)</u>		
Typhoid fever	132	0.00
Paratyphoid fever	434	0.01
Meningococcal infection	1,163	0.03
Scarlet fever	33,096	0.74
Whooping Cough	92,396	2.07
Diphtheria	63	0.00
Erysipelas	4,377	0.10
Smallpox	nil	nil
Measles	160,459	3.59
Acute pneumonia	25,432	0.57
Acute poliomyelitis -		
Paralytic	1,708	0.04
Non-paralytic	1,497	0.03
Acute encephalitis -		
Infective	174	0.00
Post-infectious	106	0.00
Dysentery	48,982	1.10
Food Poisoning	11,008	0.25
Puerperal Pyrexia	11,672	0.26
Tuberculosis -		
Respiratory	31,642	0.71
Meninges & C.N.S.	434	0.01
Other	3,739	0.08

(a) Per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

(b) Per 1,000 related live births.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

There have been no major changes in the General Health Services during the year.

The Child Welfare and Ante-natal clinics which are run by the Lancashire County Council continue to be much appreciated by mothers in Rainford and are well attended.

A very successful children's party was again held in the Village Hall at Christmas Time, the hall being very kindly loaned by courtesy of the Rainford U D.C.

Immunisation

Immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough & Tetanus

This is the responsibility of the local Divisional Health Committee. Immunisation is available against diphtheria alone, or against diphtheria and whooping cough, or against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus by the use of combined vaccines.

Poliomyelitis immunisation

During the year vaccination against poliomyelitis was made available at the clinic but owing to the small amount of vaccine made available it was not possible to immunise all those for whom application was made.

Applications for immunisation were received for 178 children and immunisation was carried out for 20 children. 9 children received a first dose.

Dysentery

There were no cases of dysentery notified during the year.

Scarlet Fever

There were 7 cases of scarlet fever notified during the year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water

Water is obtained from the St. Helens Corporation by agreement and the supply is satisfactory both in quality and quantity. All the houses in Rainford are supplied from the mains with the exception of one supplied by a well.

Sewerage and sewage disposal

The present sewage works at Rookery Lane and Berringtons Lane continue to show good effluent but as the works are getting older, and more houses have been erected, maintenance of these works presents an increasing problem.

Sewerage Requirements

There are two sewage works, one situated in Berringtons Lane which serves modern property fronting St. Helens Road, and this is capable of extension. The sewage works at Rookery Lane serves Rainford Village. The main sewer is capable of extension to take sewage from portions of the North End.

At the end of the year schemes for Crank and the North End sewerage were practically complete and discussions were continuing with the Ministry of Health.

Closest Accommodation

<u>Type</u>	<u>No.</u>
Pails	43
Wet closets with ashpits	187
Dry Ashpits	2
Fresh water closets	1,294
Ashbins	1,230

Public Cleansing

This continues to be one of the Council's biggest problems due to the scattered nature of the district and lack of adequate tipping facilities. Expenditure is high and it is difficult to know how to effect further economies without losing efficiency.

There are seasonal increases in the contents of bins with the consequence that bin collecting and privy emptying have to suffer.

Ashpit Privy conversion

During the year 10 privy closets were converted to fresh water closets. This leaves approximately 187 to be converted.

HOUSING

As a result of inspections during 1956, the following properties were found to be unfit and were scheduled for demolition. These recommendations were forwarded to the Ministry.

10	Mackies Terrace
8	Bartons Row
6	Crank Hill
2	Victoria Street

18 of these are to be demolished during 1957 and 8 during 1958.

During the year 14 Council houses were completed.

Communal Feeding

The cooking centre in Alfred Street has been inspected and found to be constantly in a satisfactory condition.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901
& FACTORIES ACT 1937 AND 1948

No change has occurred in the number of factories and workshops within the district since last year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

During the year 1956 the total number of notifications of infectious diseases received was 40.

Whooping Cough

There were 6 cases of whooping cough compared with 8 during the year 1955.

Measles

There was a marked decrease in the number of cases of measles. 19 cases were notified compared with 44 during the previous year.

Diphtheria

No cases of diphtheria were notified during the year and it is now 11 years since a case was notified in the district.

THE FOLLOWING IS A TABLE OF NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS
DISEASES RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)
DURING THE YEAR 1956

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Total cases at all ages	AGE PERIODS - YEARS										Age Unknown
		0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65& over		
Smallpox												
Scarlet Fever. ...	7			2	5							
Diphtheria(including membranous croup)... ..												
Enteric or Typhoid Fever (excluding paratyphoid).. ...												
Paratyphoid Fever												
Measles (excluding rubella)	19	1	6	8	4							
Whooping Cough ...	6		1	2	2		1					
Acute Pneumonia (primary and influenzal)... ..	1					1						
Puerperal Pyrexia...	1						1					
Meningococcal infection												
Acute poliomyelitis Paralytic... ..												
Non-paralytic ...												
Acute Encephalitis Infective... ..												
Post-infectious...												
Dysentery												
Ophthalmia neonatorum												
Erysipelas												
(Contracted Malaria(in England (and Wales... ..												
(Abroad												
Food Poisoning ...												
Any other diseases notifiable in district e.g. Chicken-pox												
Any other disease... (Specify)												
TOTALS	34	1	7	12	11	1	2					

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table gives the numbers of new cases of both forms of the disease, together with the deaths therefrom. The figures include all primary cases and other cases coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Years								
0-								
1-								
2-			1					
5-								
10-								
15-	2							
20-		1						
25-								
35-	1							
45-								
55-	1							
65-								
75 and upwards								
TOTALS	4	1	1					

Following the inception of the National Health Service Act, 1948, treatment became the responsibility of the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board.

Full co-operation exists with the Tuberculosis Officer covering the Rainford area.

